

Ohio Beetles Bulletin

Occasional Publication of the Ohio Coleopterists

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Buprestidae: *Dicerca asperata*

This first issue of the Ohio Beetles Bulletin (OBB) was developed to provide the Ohio Coleopterists membership a means of communication between issues of the Ohio Coleopterists Newsletter. Prior methods of communication via e-mail messages lacked the substance and sophistication the OC membership deserves. It is hoped the OBB will fill this void and provide an informative and enjoyable means of sharing information on the fascinating world of Beetles.

“When we have experienced the atavistic joy of collecting in the open air and the manipulative pleasure of setting and mounting our chosen beetles there follows the refined intellectual delight of naming them with precision”.

Quote by G.B. Walsh taken from the first edition of the Coleopterists Handbook. W.J.B. Crotch, General Editor London, December 1953.

Cover Photo: *Dicerca asperata* (Gory & Laporte) Specimen collected by Ken Karns 19-December-2008. Ross Co. Ohio (12 mm)

Cave Research Foundation (CRF) Hamilton Valley Facility, Kentucky

Last chance to make plans!

The Ohio Coleopterists are heading to Kentucky this weekend (May 15,16,17) for a great collecting trip to Hart County near Mammoth Cave. The Cave Research Foundation has granted the OC access to their Hamilton Valley Facility for the weekend. You should have received an e-mail regarding this trip a few weeks ago. This is a great opportunity to collect in style with plush accommodations including full kitchen, large meeting and lounge area, indoor showers and air conditioned bunk houses. Oh, there are a few beetles around as well.

The cost is only \$10/person/night. Dick Maxey, our host for the weekend and CRF member, will be collecting the fees on site. Three of us; Dick Maxey, Ben Diehl, and Ken Karns will be leaving the Columbus area Friday around 12:00 noon and should arrive at Hamilton Valley between 5:00-6:00 pm. Others are scheduled to make the trip as well.

If you need direction or have any questions, please contact us.

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Shot of the air conditioned bunk houses



View of the deck off the back of the main facility



Inside the main facility. Huge room with fireplace.

“THE SAND DUNES”

Liberty Wildlife Area - Jackson/Adams County, Ohio

May 10, 2009

I received a phone call from fellow OC member Ben Diehl who was in the midst of organizing a potential weekend collecting trip with OC members George Keeney and Dick Maxey. My personal opinion is they needed some practice swinging a sweep net prior to the Kentucky trip the following weekend. You know, lots of people watching. I spent Thursday night camping at Scioto Trail and collected there Friday and had not heard back from Ben so I headed home that evening. Ben called the following day and neither George nor Dick were able to make it so Ben and I decided to go it alone on Sunday and headed for the area around Liberty Wildlife Area at the Adams/Pike County Line. What followed was a very enjoyable day of collecting.

The “Sand Dunes” as it’s known is likely an ancient lake shore deposit that has weathered over thousands of years to create an actual dune system (figure1).



Figure 1. View atop one of the main dunes and yes, this is Ohio. My son Scott being paid to run down *Cicindela formosa generosa* for scale. Summer 2007.

Ben and I first decided to head across the road and up a ridge to a sphagnum bog area to get our feet wet (literally). On the way up we both were beating various trees and plants without much luck however, Ben did beat down a few specimens of a Bruchidae from *Pinus sp.* I believe. I began treading in the wet sphagnum and collected a nice series of a small *Elaphropus sp.* (Carabidae) and a short series of a nice Scirtidae (Marsh Beetle). Ben collected some of the same and we also pushed out a few Staphylinidae as well. My constant companion Riley cooled off by laying down on the wet soggy sphagnum...ahh to be a dog and get away with that sort of thing! (figure 2).

Crossing back across the road we clambered up the dunes and set out in different directions. I had a few pitt-falls set earlier in the year that needed attention with Ben setting his sites on the Tiger Beetles. As I checked and serviced the traps, all full of water from recent rains, I beat the pine slash created by the numerous wind storms that hit the area over the winter (figure 3). Good friend and fellow OC member Bob Androw, who works on Cerambycidae, had successfully reared the rather rare Cerambycid *Clytus marginicollis* from dead pine branches a few years ago from here. This is a species I had not collected before so it was on my mind....

And wouldn't you know it, a few minutes later I'm plucking a beautiful specimen of *Clytus marginicollis* off my beating sheet! (figure 4). This guy was taken from a rather freshly felled pine branch that had the needles yellowed. What's better than getting one nice Cerambycid? knowing which branch it was on, whilst to retrieve and cage for rearing more...maybe. Finished up with a few Carabids from the pitt-falls but nothing exciting.

Ben was doing well, actually very well, on the TBs considering he was using a sweep net (all he had) rather than an aerial net. As we all know, you can't see through a good sweep net! Ben was slapping the net down then peeking under the rim and hand nabbing the beetles, at least some..the slow dumb ones! (figure 5) There were a few *C. formosa generosa* out which seemed a bit early for them, a few *C. sexgutatta*, and a good population of *C. patuela* which is nice to see they are doing well here (figure 6). One thing Ben was looking for is the uncommon Meloidae *Tricrania sanguinipennis*. I believe Ben got a couple of specimens that were dead. We may have been a bit late for them as my series was taken in mid April several years ago.

The trip was rounded out by a quick stop at Scioto Trail for some general collecting with a few things taken but nothing worthy of print! Hope to see a few OC members this coming weekend at Hamilton Valley.

I hope you have enjoyed perusing the first issue of the OBB. Send comments, criticisms, and suggestions to my e-mail address (see title page).



Figure 4. *Clytus marginicollis* Castelnau & Gory



Figure 2. My pal Riley, a 2 year old Shiloh Shepherd relaxes in Sphagnum Bog. Adams County, OH.



Figure 3. Perfect habitat for beating species attracted to dead and dying Pines. This is where I collected *Clytus marginicollis* (Cerambycidae).



Figure 5. Ben being stealthy, ready to pounce on a unsuspecting *Cicindela p. patruela* Dejean. (Note the sweep net!).



A pair of *Cicindela p. patruela* in copula. Note the male with his mandibles firmly grasping the female between the pronotum and base of the elytra. At a boy!